

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /089 W
-----007731 161529Z /45

O 161447Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6792
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PBOR PEPR MILI EG IS LE US
SUBJECT: PUBLIC TREATMENT OF SOUTH LEBANON SCORES
- ISRAELIS, SYRIANS AND SOVIETS; SPARES U.S.
- THUS FAR

REF: CAIRO 08468 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. SHARP GOE/PRESS CRITICISM OF ISRAELI "GENOCIDE"
IN SOUTH LEBANON DIRECTED AT SCALE OF REPRISALS AND
EFFECT ON PEACE PROCESS. ATTENTION FOCUSSED ON CRAVEN
SOVIET AND SYRIAN REACTIONS AND U.S. ROLE FUZZED OVER
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PENDING U.S. OFFICIAL STATEMENT. IF STATEMENT NOT
TIMELY AND EVENHANDED, "U.S. FAILURE IN ITS RESPONSIBILITIES"
MAY BE NEXT TARGET OF PUBLICLY EXPRESSED CHAGRIN. DESPITE
ATTACKS, ISRAEL STILL TREATED AS POTENTIAL PARTNER IN PEACE
PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. ISRAEL CONDEMNED. FONMIN KAMEL OFFICIAL STATEMENT

CONDEMNING ISRAELI "GENOCIDE" IN SOUTH LEBANON AND PREJUDICE IT BRINGS TO PEACE PROCESS RECEIVED MAJOR PLAY MARCH 16 (REFTEL). PEOPLES ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS AND ARAB AFFAIRS COMMITTEES ALSO ISSUED STATEMENT CALLING ON ALL WORLD LEGISLATIVE BODIES TO CONDEMN ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND UN CHARTER. PRESS FOCUSES ON SCALE OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND WANTONNESS OF "HORRIBLE MASSACRES" IN SOUTH LEBANON. AHRAH EDITORIAL COMPARED ISRAEL TO "MAFIA GANG" THAT USING TEL AVIV INCIDENT AS PRETEXT FOR DISPROPORTIONATE RESPONSE TO FATAH RAID. CLAIMED ISRAEL ERRS IN BELIEF IT CAN CRUSH PALESTINIAN CAUSE OR ELIMINATE PALESTINIANS. AKHBAR ALSO SAW ISRAEL RESORTING TO "HOLOCAUST" AND EXTERMINATION TACTICS TO ELIMINATE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. CONCLUDED ISRAEL WANTS MORE EXPANSION, NOT PEACE.

2. SYRIA-USSR. PRESS DEVOTES UNLIKELY AMOUNT OF BANNER HEADLINE SPACE TO SYRIAN-SOVIET ALACRITY IN WASHING HANDS OF SOUTH LEBANON AFFAIR. NOTES GUR'S "COMPLETE SATISFACTION" WITH SYRIAN NONENGAGEMENT. AKHBAR UNLEASHED AHMED ZAYN, BANE OF SYRIA, TO COMMENT EDITORIALY THAT "ASSAD TOOK TO HIS HEELS."

3. U.S. ROLE. ATTENTION ON SYRIA AND USSR PERHAPS PARTLY DESIGNED FUZZ OVER STRIKING LACK OF ATTENTION TO U.S. ROLE. KAMEL LUMPED U.S. AMONG "BIG FIVE" IN CALLING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON "WHOLE WORLD" TO ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO ISRAELI OPERATIONS. AHRAH EDITOR HAMDI GAMAL, APPARENTLY COACHED, DEBUNKED AS "SILLY NONSENSE" TASS CONTENTION THAT WEIZMAN PRESENCE IN U.S. PROVES ISRAEL, U.S. AND EGYPT COLLUDED IN ATTACK ON SOUTH LEBANON.

4. MISSING ELEMENT FOR EGYPTIANS IS CLEARLY U.S. CONDEMNATION ISRAELI ACTIONS. ALTHOUGH IT BURIED HODDING CARTER'S REMARKS, PRESS DID NOTE U.S. REFUSAL SUPPORT OR CONDEMN ISRAELI OPERATION OR COMMENT OFFICIALLY FOR AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FOLLOWING ITS END. CAIRO RADIO COMMENTARY LINGERED BRIEFLY OVER "PATIENCE WITH WHICH WEST IN GENERAL AND U.S. IN PARTICULAR SHOWING TOWARDS IRRESPONSIBLE ISRAELI ACTIONS . . . CAIRO HAS CALLED ON U.S. FOR BALANCED ARMS POLICY TO DENY ISRAEL USE OF POLICY OF FORCE TOWARD ARAB PEOPLE . . . IMPERIALIST FORCES HAVE REALIZED AFTER HUGE LOSSES IN 20TH CENTURY THAT IGNORING PEOPLES IS OF NO USE. MOST RECENT EXAMPLE IS VIETNAMESE WAR, WHICH FORCED BIGGEST MAJOR POWER TO RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE . . . WILL WEST AND U.S. STAND IDLY BY OR WILL THEY CONVEY TO

ISRAEL ITS EXPERIENCES IN DEALING WITH NATIONAL MOVE-
MENTS . . . ?"

5. COMMENT. SIGNIFICANTLY, COVERAGE CONTINUES TREAT
ISRAEL AS POTENTIAL PARTNER IN SHAPING PEACE. DESPITE ITS
- SHARPNESS, CRITICISM HAS NOT APPROACHED PRE-
JERUSALEM VICIOUSNESS NOR EVEN THAT WITH WHICH SYRIANS
AND OTHERS TREATED DURING LEBANESE WAR. IN WAKE OF

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SADAT'S CONDEMNATION OF FATAH RAID, PRESS CAN DO NO LESS
THAN BLAST ISRAELIS. OUTRAGE AT ISRAELI EXCESS IS,
OF COURSE, GENUINE BUT CLEARLY MATCHED BY CONCERN FOR
EFFECT ON CHANCES FOR PEACE. PRESS APPARENTLY WITHHOLDING
SPOTLIGHT FROM U.S. PENDING RELEASE OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT
ON ISRAELI OPERATION. EGYPTIANS WANT IT TO BE TIMELY
(TO PROVE U.S. UNDERSTANDS SERIOUSNESS OF EVENTS) AND
EVENHANDED (TO PROTECT EGYPT AND SADAT INITIATIVE). IN
ABSENCE OF DEMONSTRABLE U.S. CONCERN, EGYPTIANS MAY MAKE

CLEAR PUBLICLY DISAPPOINTMENT WITH U.S. "FAILURE TO
EXERCISE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES". EILTS

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